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EXAMINER

BURLESON, MICHAEL L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 01/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/891,583

Applicant(s)

MICHIHIRO IZUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Michael Burleson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-9,13,14 and 20-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6,10-12 and 15-19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2,4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed June 27, 2001 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(1), which requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office. It has been placed in the application file, but the information referred to therein has not been considered.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1,7-9,13,14 and 20-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ho et al. US 6061502 in view of Okada US 6101548.

Regarding claim 1, Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits data over a public switched telephone network (106) (column 3, lines 31-40), which reads on an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits facsimile data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a first transmission means for transmitting by facsimile the image data compressed by said compression means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits e-mail data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a second transmission means for transmitting by the image data compressed by said compression means as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection means for selecting said first transmission means or said second transmission means.

Ho et al. fails to teach of a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater and reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Okada teaches that a facsimile device (13) determines whether or not the electronic mail is within the data volume limit (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-11 and figure 3), which reads on a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater. He also teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on a reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to make the device easier to use, (for example faster) given the expressed suggestion of Ho et al (column 9, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 7, Okada teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on said reduction means includes dividing means for dividing, when said input means inputs image data of a plurality of pages, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount.

Regarding claim 8, Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits data over a public switched telephone network (106) (column 3, lines 31-40), which reads on an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on a scanning means for scanning a document image. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing image data scanned by said scanning means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits facsimile data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a first transmission means for transmitting by facsimile the image data compressed by said compression means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits e-mail data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a second transmission means for transmitting by the image data compressed by said compression means as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection means for selecting said first transmission means or said second transmission means. Ho et al. teaches that the scanner (204) can select a standard resolution for fax data sent by e-mail (column 4, lines 47-57), which reads on setting means for setting a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, to be lower than a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means when said first transmission means is selected.

Regarding claim 9, Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits data over a public switched telephone network (106) (column 3, lines 31-40), which reads on an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on a scanning means for scanning a document image. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing image data scanned by said scanning means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits facsimile data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a first transmission means for transmitting by facsimile the image data compressed by said compression means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits e-mail data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a second transmission means for transmitting by the image data compressed by said compression means as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection means for selecting said first transmission means or said second transmission means. Ho et al. teaches that the scanner (204) can select a standard resolution for fax data sent by e-mail (column 4, lines 47-57), which reads on setting means for setting a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, to be lower than a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means when said first transmission means is selected.

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Ho et al. fails to teach of a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater and reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Okada teaches that a facsimile device (13) determines whether or not the electronic mail is within the data volume limit (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-11 and figure 3), which reads on a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater. He also teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on a reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to make the device easier to use, (for example faster) given the expressed suggestion of Ho et al (column 9, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 13, Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits data over a public switched telephone network (106) (column 3, lines 31-40), which reads on an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data of a plurality of pages. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits facsimile data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a first transmission means for transmitting by facsimile the image data compressed by said compression means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits e-mail data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a second transmission means for transmitting by the image data compressed by said compression means as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection means for selecting said first transmission means or said second transmission means.

Ho et al fails to teach of a dividing means for dividing when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount, wherein said second transmission means creates an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided by said dividing means.

Okada teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42 and 55-67, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on dividing means for dividing when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount, wherein said second transmission means creates an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided by said dividing means.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to avoid communication line congestion as suggested by Okada (column 1, lines 36-38).

Regarding claim 14, Ho et al. teaches of the control operations of the scanner (204), the printer (210) and the fax/data modem (212) (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a control method for an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data

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compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message.

Ho et al. fails to teach of a determination step of determining, when the second transmission mode is in said selection step, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater and a reduction step of reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when it is determined in said determination step that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Okada teaches that a facsimile device (13) determines whether or not the electronic mail is within the data volume limit (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-11 and figure 3), which reads on a determination step of determining, when the second transmission mode is in said selection step, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater. He also teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on a reduction step of reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when it is determined in said determination step that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in

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order to make the device easier to use, (for example faster) given the expressed suggestion of Ho et al (column 9, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 20, Ho et al. teaches of the control operations of the scanner (204), the printer (210) and the fax/data modem (212) (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a control method for an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches that the scanner (204) can select a standard resolution for fax data sent by e-mail (column 4, lines 47-57), which reads on a setting step of setting a scanning resolution employed in said scanning step, when the second transmission mode is selected in said selection step, to be lower than a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means when said first transmission mode is selected.

Regarding claim 21, Ho et al. teaches of the control operations of the scanner (204), the printer (210) and the fax/data modem (212) (column 5, lines 44-56), which

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reads on a control method for an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input step of inputting image data of plurality of pages. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression step of compressing the image data input by said input step. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message.

Ho et al fails to teach of a dividing means for dividing when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount, wherein said second transmission means creates an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided by said dividing means.

Okada teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42 and 55-67, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3). He also teaches that the process end when all pages of the image data is complete transmits it over a communication network (column 6, lines 28-42), which reads on dividing step of dividing, when the second transmission mode is selected in said selection step, the image data

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of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount and a creating step of creating an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided in said dividing step.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to avoid communication line congestion as suggested by Okada (column 1, lines 36-38).

Regarding claim 22, Ho et al. teaches of a controller (214) that takes the form of a microprocessor with RAM and ROM that is programmed to control the operations of scanner (204) and fax/data modem (212) among other components (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing an image communication apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message.

Ho et al. fails to teach of a determination step of determining, when the second transmission mode is in said selection step, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater and a reduction step of reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when it is determined in said determination step that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Okada teaches that a facsimile device (13) determines whether or not the electronic mail is within the data volume limit (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-11 and figure 3), which reads on a determination step of determining, when the second transmission mode is in said selection step, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater. He also teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on a reduction step of reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when it is determined in said determination step that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to make the device easier to use, (for example faster) given the expressed suggestion of Ho et al (column 9, lines 5-10).

Regarding claim 23, Ho et al. teaches of a controller (214) that takes the form of a microprocessor with RAM and ROM that is programmed to control the operations of scanner (204) and fax/data modem (212) among other components (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing an image communication apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of the control operations of the scanner (204), the printer (210) and the fax/data modem (212) (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a control method for an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message. Ho et al. teaches that the scanner (204) can select a standard resolution for fax data sent by e-mail (column 4, lines 47-57), which reads on a setting step of setting a scanning resolution employed in said scanning step, when the second transmission mode is selected in said selection step, to

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be lower than a scanning resolution employed by said scanning means when said first transmission mode is selected.

Regarding claim 24, Ho et al. teaches of a controller (214) that takes the form of a microprocessor with RAM and ROM that is programmed to control the operations of scanner (204) and fax/data modem (212) among other components (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing an image communication apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of the control operations of the scanner (204), the printer (210) and the fax/data modem (212) (column 5, lines 44-56), which reads on a control method for an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input step of inputting image data of plurality of pages. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression step of compressing the image data input by said input step. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits information in either facsimile or email format (column 5, lines 57-67), which reads on a selection step of selecting a first transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted by facsimile, or a second transmission mode in which the image data compressed in said compression step is transmitted as attached data in an e-mail message.

Ho et al fails to teach of a dividing means for dividing when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount, wherein said second transmission means creates an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided by said dividing means.

Okada teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again (column 5, lines 26-42 and 55-67, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3). He also teaches that the process end when all pages of the image data is complete transmits it over a communication network (column 6, lines 28-42), which reads on dividing step of dividing, when the second transmission mode is selected in said selection step, the image data of the plurality of pages so that the amount of image data in an e-mail message is less than the predetermined amount and a creating step of creating an e-mail message for each portion of image data divided in said dividing step.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to avoid communication line congestion as suggested by Okada (column 1, lines 36-38).

Regarding claim 25, Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) that transmits data over a public switched telephone network (106) (column 3, lines 31-40), which reads on an image communicating apparatus for transmitting image data to another apparatus through a public communication network. Ho et al. teaches of a

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scanner (204) (column 4, lines 14-16), which reads on an input means for inputting image data. Ho et al. teaches that the communications (100) has a destination identifier routine that confirms that a successful connection has been established (column 6, lines 54-68 and column 7, lines 25-35), which reads on a confirming means for confirming a destination. The modem (212) performs image compression (column 6, lines 3-17), which reads on a compression means for compressing the image data input by said input means. Ho et al. teaches of a communication device (100) transmits e-mail data (column 5, lines 57-60), which reads on a transmission means for transmitting the image data compressed by said compression means as attached data in an e-mail message.

Ho et al. fails to teach of a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater and reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Okada teaches that a facsimile device (13) determines whether or not the electronic mail is within the data volume limit (column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-11 and figure 3), which reads on a determination means for determining, when said second transmission means is selected by said selection means, whether or not the amount of image data compressed by said compression means is a predetermined amount or greater. He also teaches of a facsimile device (13) that determines if the electronic mail exceeds the data volume limit, it is divided up and the data limit is determined again

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(column 5, lines 26-42, column 6, lines 8-14 and figure 3), which reads on a reduction means for reducing the amount of image data to less than the predetermined amount when said determination means determines that the amount of image data is the predetermined amount or greater.

Ho et al. could be modified with the facsimile device of Okada. This modification would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in order to make the device easier to use, (for example faster) given the expressed suggestion of Ho et al (column 9, lines 5-10).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 2-6, 10-12 and 15-19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Burleson at (703) 305-8683. The examiner can normally be reached Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (7013) 872-9306 for regular communications and after final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relation to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

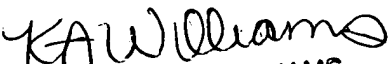
Michael Burleson

Patent Examiner



MIb

January 23, 2005


KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER